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The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian.

No. 229. AUGUST, 1926.

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"The Place of the Synod in our Church Life."

It is much to be regretted that the Rev. Alex. Gordon's address on this subject at the Synod meeting on June 16th., is not available for publication, for, we understand, that there is no verbatim report. His clear and concise statement with regard to our Church Courts did us all good. We are sorry that it cannot reach a wider circle of our people. A full report of the Address would be invaluable at the present time when it may be said with perfect truth that our Code of Discipline is as much observed in the breach as in the observance. One point in the Address was particularly valuable in view of the perennial controversy as to the propriety of holding doctrinal opinions while adhering to the principle of Non-Subscription. The speaker indicated very clearly that Unitarians who are convinced of their opinions are at the same time Non-Subscribers to dogmatic tests. While they hold their present opinions as convictions, they also regard religious truth as not a static but as a progressive revelation. All true Unitarians are ever ready to receive new light when it shines clearly on them. The old name used to designate our churches, "New Light" indicates quite clearly the course of events. Our fathers were not content with the old measure of attainment, but eagerly looked forward to new truths from God. The point in the Address referred to above was most valuable in view of the confusion present in some minds as to what the Unitarian position really is. We regret that Mr. Gordon's actual statement on this point is not preserved. We are convinced it would set at rest some doubts and contribute greatly to give its quietus to a barren controversy.

The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian.

AN APPEAL.

The following letter has been sent to the Minister and Secretary of each of our Congregations, and the attention of all readers of the Magazine is particularly directed to the appeal which it contains.

We are requested by the Sub-Committee in charge of the NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN to ask you to lay the claims of the paper before your Committee.

The desirability of having a Denominational Paper is admitted by everyone. It is practically the only means of keeping our people acquainted with the doings of our several congregations, and the only **voice** that we have through which to reach the outside public and our friends in other countries.

Its cessation would be a great loss to the Denomination. These facts are admitted. The difficulty of keeping it going is a financial one.

A Magazine with a small circulation is faced with the problem of paying its way. Hitherto the deficit has been met by the generosity of a few Congregations and Individuals. The Magazine meets a common need, and it is felt that it should be more generally and generously supported. This would mean a very slight burden indeed to each Congregation.

May we request therefore that you ask your Committee to consider how they can help in this matter?

We suggest, First—that an effort be made to increase the circulation.

Continued at foot of next page.

Notes of the Month.

The Synod which met on 17th June was unexpectedly placed in a difficult position with regard to the publication of this Magazine. The Rev. H. J. Rossington, M.A., B.D., owing to pressure of other work and without preliminary warning, resigned his position and intimated that with the July issue his Editorship would cease. This severance of a connection which has continued several years is a matter for regret in as much as the late Editor has conducted our monthly recorder with conspicuous ability.

Faced with this situation the Synod appointed a Committee to consider the whole situation, and, at the time of writing, is still devising ways and means. It was decided at a preliminary meeting that the NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN must continue to function as our Church organ.

With this object it was decided to make an effort to lessen the cost of production without in any way sacrificing the usefulness of the Magazine. It is generally felt that the publication fills an important function in our Church life and that we cannot dispense with our only means of recording events. The difficulty of making a publication of this nature to pay its own way has always been a problem. The constituency is not large and the circulation has not been sufficient to allow it to be a financial success. From this and other considerations the Committee in charge decided first of all to alter the form in which it has hitherto appeared and to make it less expensive to produce. It is to be hoped that the magazine in this way will commend itself to all adherents of our Church without distinction.

We earnestly commend the appeal of the Committee which appears in this issue to all responsible officers in our constituent Churches to make a strong effort to obtain a maximum number of subscribers and not to be content with a minimum circulation, as—with a few honourable exceptions has often been the case in the past. The appeal also indicates two other methods by which Church Committees may help to set the magazine on its feet. It is to be hoped that the appeal will not fail in its object.

The Editorship is thus far in suspense. The responsible parties now continuing publication do so without any previous direct contact, and lack experienced guidance. They, as new brooms, do not hope to sweep cleaner or more effectively than the sweepers who have swept so well in the past; they only hope to continue the good work of recording the Annals of a Church, which, small in numbers though it be, has held a conspicuous place in the religious life of the North of Ireland.

While we are grateful for the services of the late Editor for continuing the Editorship with laudible devotion we cannot allow this unique occasion to pass without recording our admiration of, and gratitude to the Rev. Alfred Turner (who, if we mistake not, with the help Dr. now Sir John Campbell, M.A., M.D., M.P., conceived the idea of the NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN, and produced it in such a dignified form as to call forth universal approval, He continued publication for fourteen years with care and forethought. with the good of the Church always in view and with a literary ability much above the average of such publications. Whoever will be responsible for publication in the future cannot hope to do more than continue the same strain and to emulate the example of the first editor.

An Appeal—*continued.*

Secondly—that a small contribution be made from the Church funds, or an Annual Collection taken on behalf of the Magazine. If, however, the circulation can be sufficiently increased, the financial problem will be solved.

Every endeavour will be made to make the Magazine both interesting and serviceable to our denomination and to each individual congregation.

The debt at present existing amounts to £56 and must be met immediately.

We therefore ask for a prompt and generous response to this appeal and beg your assistance.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Rev. G. J. Slipper, 7 Trevor Hill, Newry, Co. Down, who will acknowledge same both personally and in the Magazine.

EDGAR LOCKETT, Moderator.
GEO. J. SLIPPER, Clerk.

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1926-28

Temperance Notes.

Away from it all !

A few weeks peace and quiet, in a very secluded spot, midst glorious scenery of mountains, hills, dales, runing brooks, delightful lanes banked by exquisite wild flowers of myriad variety, the blue sky above, the sea a still deeper blue so near my tiny bungalow—this has been my lot. If there was any doubt that the rest was needed—in my mind there is no doubt that the change was thoroughly appreciated. But with all the Divine glory of nature around me and little or no sign of civilization, to be suddenly reminded that a page of "Temperance Notes" was required, was a shock, and a rude awakening. To think that man, so fearfully and wonderfully made, God's greatest masterpiece, should be so incapable of reading God's Book of Nature. Alcohol, and the purple haze caressing the mountain sides; alcohol—and the rippling brook eddying and flowing in and out among the crags ! ; alcohol —and wild flowers ! ; alcohol and the sea ! I was told that I needed a tonic —" a little alchool would make a man of you," said one . . . . " it will put zip into your life ! "

A man who needs, or thinks he needs alcohol, to add ' zip ' to his life, to excite him, has never truly lived. But more, he is irreligious—he knows not God. God has been speaking to him, but he has not heard.

Have heard it said that ' indulgence ' lifts one to the seventh heaven. I know it stimulates the senses, even though by temporarily weakening control. But what of the aftermath ? As one stands in awe and reverence before the beauties of Nature—wrapt in solemn silence—he is ' lifted ' indeed—uplifted and strengthened, and there is no ' aftermath ' but what is good and lasting.

It is poor testimony upon our systems of education in schools, colleges and universities, that the young men, and men of maturer years and among the ' cultured ' classes should deem it no sin that they have to resort to wines, and spirits, to cocktails and the like, in order to enjoy life.

Hamilton Fyfe.

A reader has sent me an original article entitled " In Training," culled from " The Daily Herald " by Mr. Hamilton Fyfe. He relates, in that article, circumstances concerning five acquaintances of his, men " all more or less in the public eye " who had died at early ages from the effects of drink since the beginning of this year. He labours his point at length—but it is a simple one. It is to the effect that they one and all craved excitement—found life dull and drab—and so gradually took to drink to add zest to life. And it does. But, says the author " that kind of habit always reduces efficiency " He said that doctors seem to studiously avoid stating the real truth on death certificates when the truth would be Cause of Death—Drink. " Sometimes, when people are poor," he adds " they mention ' chronic alcoholism.' Almost always the real trouble is carefully concealed."

These five individuals were journalists, or at any rate writers—and Hamilton Fyfe concludes his article thus :—

Our Task.

" Perhaps we don't always quite realise what our task is. Three men cutting stone in a quarry were asked what they were doing. The first said, ' Cutting stone ' ; the second, ' Earning my living.' The third replied, ' I am helping to build a Cathedral.'

' He had vision, imagination. He worked the better because of the end he had in view. And we are building something nobler even than a cathedral. For the stone we cut—with bleeding hands sometimes and sometimes with heavy heart—is to erect a Commonwealth which shall give a square deal and a fair share in all that makes life worth living, to every man and every woman and every child."

P. G.

We hope to publish next month a page of short paragraphs, illustrative of the social, moral and religious life. We trust that this feature will commend itself to our readers. We believe that a series of wayside gatherings will not only be acceptable, but will also help to inform our readers as to what the world is thinking and doing. We have pleasure in announcing that the Rev. Albert Whitford, of Moneyrea, has undertaken to compile this series.

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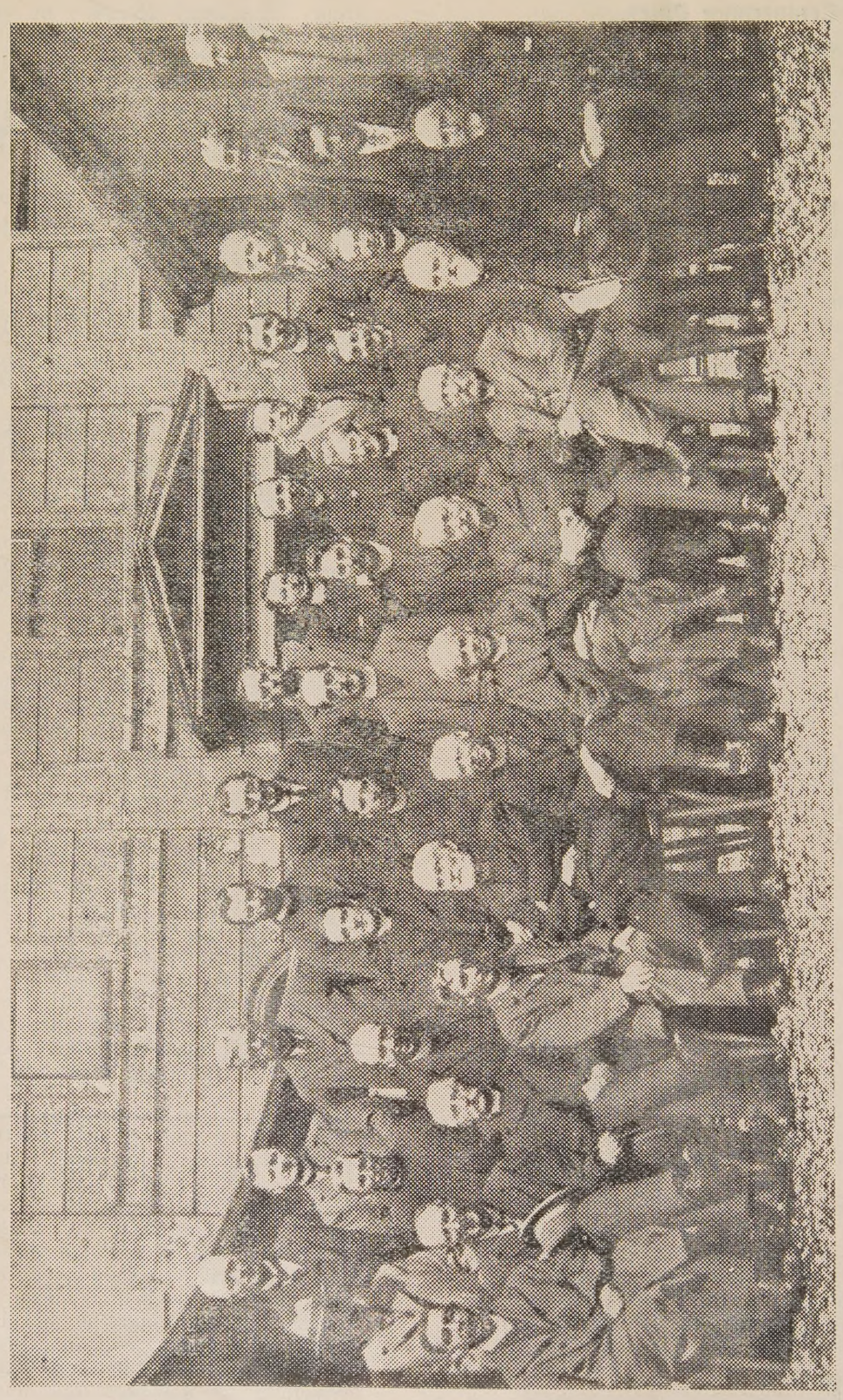

GROUP OF MEMBERS ATTENDING GENERAL SYNOD

(By kind permission of "Belfast News Letter.")

Sunday School Conference.

If any one had doubts regarding the increasing popularity of the Sunday School Conference those doubts were quickly dispelled by the crowded gatherings which assembled on Saturday, June 5th. For the first time since the inception of the Conference we were privileged to meet at Ballyclare and our report must begin with a word of praise for the Rev. A. M. Bell, B.A., and members of the Congregation who entertained us so hospitably. It was no mere formal vote of thanks which Rev. E. Lockett voiced on behalf of the Sunday School Committee; we deeply appreciate the generous hospitality which our Congregations continue to provide, and our friends at Ballyclare were very successful in catering for their visitors. Their meeting house was filled to overflowing and many were unable to obtain admission.

The Conference is a time of exceptional opportunities for the Sunday School, it brings to the forefront not only the problems which continue to beset us as Teachers, it brings also a message of encouragement and good cheer which aid the teacher in accomplishing what, perhaps, sometimes seems an unrewarded task. Our Annual gathering serves to remind us of the importance of our work; its value for the Church, for the children, and for the common weal.

This year, unfortunately, one of the objects of the Conference was not realised. The reader of the paper and the introducer of the discussions took up too much time and we had to conclude our proceedings without giving an opportunity to our visitors of contributing from their own experiences. We look to those who have been engaged in Sunday School work for many years for advice and suggestion in our efforts to deal with the ever incurring difficulties of catering for our Senior Scholars, and making our Schools more attractive to the children.

Our proceedings began with a devotional service conducted by Rev. A. M. Bell. The Moderator then took charge of the meeting and, after the usual preliminaries were gone through, called on the Rev. A. L. Agnew, to read a paper on "Methods in the Sunday School."

The Paper dealt with the question of how we might make our Sunday Schools more attractive so that children might be pulled to them rather than pushed to them, and yet do so with the material we had at hand. He described the circumstances under which he himself and many present had attended Sunday School. School rooms could often be made much more cheerful and bright by the Teachers and Scholars themselves and the children who were taught that their School Room or Church was to be kept clean by them because it was their school or church, would learn a lesson in loyalty which would probably result in their becoming active church workers in after years.

An attractive school depended greatly on the teachers. Here again we were limited by the material at hand. Some became teachers because they were organists and teaching a class was always part of the organist's work; other taught because they had married ministers, and others because they could not say "no" when forced to take up the work. A teacher should remember that he was a teacher outside school as well as inside, and stand in the same relation to his class as a minister to his people. Some teachers were remembered when ministers were forgotten, and to be so remembered should be the teacher's ideal, and such teachers would always succeed.

The lecturer proceeded to give an illustration of how kindergarten methods might be applied in junior classes, and dealt with the great difficulty in Denominational teaching especially for young scholars.

A great part of the paper was devoted to the Bible Class. Members of the senior class could be the minister's greatest help in the Church. They should be encouraged to become paying members of the Church within their means and encouraged to give suggestions on the running of the church, and to visit other churches and collect ideas and generally to do some of the work that Committees were supposed to do but seldom did.

The paper concluded with two reasons why we should as a denomination give the Sunday Schools our attention.

Firstly we were supposed to lead the way in many matters and although we were no more advanced than most others and even behind some we should keep the ideal before us.

The Second reason was even more important, the testing time for our churches would be in the next generation. Our churches then would depend on the Sunday Schools and largely on the senior classes of the Sunday Schools of to-day. They therefore demanded our attention.

Mr. Agnew's paper was very suggestive: there was wheat as well as chaff and the audience listened with marked attention as the speaker indicated the successful results which had been obtained in his own school. At the conclusion of the paper the reader struck a high note which found a ready response from those present. There was no time available for discussion; Rev. G. V. Crook read a second paper which can hardly be called a "discussion" of "Methods in the Sunday School." In future years we hope to work more closely to the clock and so achieve the real object of the Conference.

Below is a list of Prize Winners for Essays, written on subjects which had been dealt with in our Schools during 1925. The Prizes were presented by Mrs. Logan of Ballyclare, who very kindly officiated for Mrs. Bulmer—the latter owing to indisposition, being unable to be present.

Kathleen Dale, Mabel F. Frame, Florence Wilson, Ella Moore, Lily Ferguson, Mildred Martin, Ella M'Kartney and Rachel Loughan.

In addition to the above two Special Prizes of £1 and 10/- were offered to the two best essays on "Our Church: its past, present, and future." The prizes were kindly given by Rev. A. L. Agnew, B.A., and Mr. N. Kirkham. Two essays were submitted: these were considered by the adjudicator to be of equal merit and an award of 15/- each was given to John M'Clurg, of Raloo and Edward Daniels, of York Street. A very hearty invitation was received from Newry Congregation, and we are looking forward to paying them a visit in 1927.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Proposes to appoint a FULL-TIME SECRETARY. The salary will be fixed according to qualifications, but will not be less than £300 per annum.

Applications for the post are invited and should be made in writing, with particulars of qualifications, copies of testimonials, etc., to

THE HON. TREASURER,
Essex Hall, Essex Street,
LONDON, W.C.2.

on or before 1st SEPTEMBER.

We have pleasure in informing our Sunday Schools that the New Hymnal will shortly be ready. The book is intended for use not only in the Schools, but for Special Services in our churches. Hymns are included suitable for Harvest Festivals, Sunday School Anniversaries, Flower Services, and Temperance Meetings. Over 100 hymns are included and the price is 2d. per copy. Orders may be sent to me at the Manse, Moneyrea, Comber; or to the Depository, 35 Rosemary Street, Belfast.

A. WHITFORD.

The Rev. I. C. Mantripp, in the July number of the Hibbert Journal, reviewing Dr. Farrell's book, "The Attributes of God," being the Gifford Lectures, 1924-25, writes as follows:

"For Christianity, the Trinitarian Conception of God does not offer a solution; it imposes obstacles for thought which makes it difficult to regard God as a Unity. 'The monotheism proclaimed by Christianity,' Dr. Farnell writes, 'becomes unreal where Mariolotry is strong.' Much of modern Christianity is idolatry. Only Unitarian Christianity has been able to escape from this intellectual tangle."

Bodel-Mackenzie Benevolent Fund.

The Trustees beg to announce that three vacancies have occurred in the list of Beneficiaries, and that an election will be held, on Thursday, September 8th, 1926. Special attention is directed to the fact that at the election held last year, there were no less than seventeen applicants, but the Trustees were unable because of a limited income to elect more than seven. The necessity for increasing the income by annual congregational collections is evident, if the Fund is to meet the increasing demands made upon it. Three congregations have already instituted annual collections, and two others have promised similar collections. In view of this poor response the Trustees are moved to repeat their appeal of last year to our Churches for annual collections, and they hope that congregations not already contributing or pledged to contribute will see their way to do so. The Fund is deserving of more adequate support, and the need for increasing the number of Beneficiaries is urgent.

The Trustees are confident that if the good work done by the Fund were more widely known the necessary help would be speedily forthcoming.

The Fund makes grants not exceeding £20 per annum, to spinsters of 55 years and upwards, who are in reduced, and poor circumstances; and who have been for at least five years prior to date of application, members of a Church connected with the Association of Irish Non-Subscribing Presbyterians and other Free Christians.

Application forms for the September Election can be obtained up to August 30th, by applying to the Assistant Secretary.

REV. MATHEW WATKINS,
4 Bathgate Drive,
Strandtown. BELFAST.

SILVER WEDDING.

ASHWORTH—OSBORNE.—On July 24th, 1901, at the Remonstrant Church, Comber, Co. Down, by the Rev. Thomas Dunkerly, B.A., the Rev. Alexander Ashworth, of Belfast, to Margaret Smith, only daughter of the late James and Mary Osborne, of "Woodview," Killinchy, Co. Down.

Non-subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland.

Bangor Congregation

SERVICE EACH SUNDAY EVENING
At 7 o'clock,
IN
Thompson's Tea Rooms, Main St.
(OPPOSITE POST OFFICE)

Minister: Rev. A. Whitford, Moneyrea.

Hon, Treasurer:
Mr. T. LILLIE,
6 Bingham St., Bangor.

Hon. Secretary:
Mr. GEORGE HILL,
45 Ballyholme Esplanade.

Students for the Ministry.

The need of students for the Ministry is at least as great in our Non-Subscribing Church as in that of other Churches. On all hands we hear of the scarcity of candidates for the Christian Ministry generally. Our own Church has been somewhat negligent in this respect of late years and it is to be hoped that a stirring of life among our congregations will before long be the outcome. A realisation of the need for students must be instilled into the consciousness of all our congregations. Until our members, and especially heads of families, are alive to their responsibilities the future of our Ministry will not be as we would desire.

A crying need of our churches here is the raising of native ministers from among our own congregations, men conversant with the rise, genius, raison d'être and the peculiar place of our Churches in the religious life of the North of Ireland. Considering their numbers our congregations have from time to time raised a certain quota for the ministry, but how many of them have come back to serve the Church of their fathers? Surely not a full proportion have done so. The result has been that ministers brought up in Great Britain have largely filled pulpits which should predominantly be served by native ministers, excellent men without doubt, but largely ignorant of the past history and the peculiar point of view current among our people in the North of Ireland.

The result has been that ministers with some academical fitness and otherwise have monopolised the high places and to some extent caused our ministry to become exotic and out of touch with the genius of Ulster folk. There is no blame, but rather praise, to men who respond to a clear call to vacant pulpits. There are in our Churches young men of ability and force of character, with a tenacity of purpose and a mental outlook, who are fully capable of satisfying the need of our Churches. The lethargy which has prevailed for some years needs to be dispelled. Have we not some right to appeal to our individual Churches to keep a sharp look out for likely young men, who would, if encouraged, develop into good pastors and preachers?

We have facilities for the purpose which can hardly be surpassed in any other community. The funds for supporting students for the ministry should be available for approved and tried candidates; for no other should apply. If Presbyteries realised their responsibilities we would soon have suitable candidates. Preliminary tests of a searching kind directed to questions of fitness and character should be rigidly adhered to. Much of the failure to produce a sufficient number of ministers has been due to a somewhat haphazard supervision of the young men who have offered themselves.

The chief need of our Community at the present time is not to produce men distinguished in academical circles, but well-equipped pastors, preachers and all-round ministers with their hearts in the work. Only such men will gain and retain the respect of hard-headed Ulster folk. The new Faculty of Divinity in Queen's University of Belfast offers an admirable opportunity to our individual Churches to raise men for the ministry—such ministers as would have some status among the educated men of their natural province.

May we not appeal to our leaders in the various churches to consider this important question, and thus help to remove a defect which has to some extent been keenly felt?

Laymen's League.

We have pleasure in informing all the friends interested in the United Ulster Hall Service, on November 21st, that the arrangements are now practically complete. The preacher will be the Rev. Lawrence Clare, Church of the Messiah, Birmingham. The Committee are to be congratulated on having secured the services of one of the most earnest and capable of our ministers.

Will our friends please make a note of the date and turn up with their usual promptitude; we hope for an enthusiastic and helpful gathering.

Obituary.

Mr. Robert G. Kelly.

His many friends in Northern Ireland have heard with regret of the passing of Mr. Robert G. Kelly, of

Sydney, N.S.W., one of five sons of the late Mr. John Kelly, of Ballyalton, and brother of Rev. J. A. Kelly, of Dunmurry. Mr. Kelly's career sheds lustre on his native province. For twenty years he was an Alderman of Murrumburragh-Harden, and was elected Mayor for the thirteenth year in succession. During the war he rendered invaluable help to the Empire, and his only sons, Fred and Alton, served, the latter in France, the former with the 12th Light Horse in Palestine. Both were severely wounded, but were fortunately able to return to their native land and complete their preparation for promising business careers. The late Mr. Kelly was a man of striking personality and was a great favourite with those who knew him. He had a strong love for his native land, which he left over forty years ago for Australia and so prospered in business, that he was able to retire when quite a young man to Sydney, N.S.W., where he passed away on Sunday, 27th June last in his 63rd year. He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters to mourn his loss.

Mrs. Jane Snowden Barry Munn.

The Comber Congregation have lost by death, one of their oldest members in Mrs. Munn, of Cattogs House. For many years she was a constant worshipper and a deeply attached member of the Unitarian Church. In early years and for a considerable period after her married life, she was an equally attached member of the Killinchy Congregation. She was a scion of an old family connected with the Non-Subscribing Church. Her grandfather, Mr. William Barry, was a staunch supporter of the Rev. Samuel Watson, M.A., of Killinchy in the troublous times of the Disruption consequent on the imposition of dogmatic tests on ministers in the Presbyterian Church. Mr. Wm. Barry early took his stand on behalf of the Non-Subscribing principle and was Mr. Watson's leading elder supporting him throughout and accompanying him to the new home built for him and his congregation under the name of the Remonstrant Church, Killinchy. The family have ever since been faithful adherents to the same principle of freedom from dogmatic tests. By marriage, Mrs. Munn became allied to another family deeply attached to the Killinchy Church. It will thus be seen that the present members of the Munn family are deeply rooted in the foundation principles of our faith.

Mrs. Munn lived to the great age of 87 years and departed this life on Friday, June 18th, 1926. She enjoyed a strong constitution, led an active life and attended to the duties of her station with praiseworthy fidelity until recently when increasing age and infirmity began to tell on her strength. She leaves behind her two sons and two daughters, one daughter having pre-deceased her. Two other sisters survive to mourn her loss. We deeply sympathise with the members of her family in their bereavement, the more so on account of the regard with which they are held by a wide circle of acquaintances. Their mutual affection was apparent to all who came in contact with them.

Mrs. Munn throughout her long life was kindly disposed and dispensed hospitality with a dignity which was all her own. Ministers especially will readily recognise this trait in her character.

Her mortal remains were removed for interment in the Family Burying Ground of the New Meeting House Green, Killinchy, on Monday, 21st June. A large concourse of people from near and far attended to pay the last respects to her memory. The Revs. J. G. Davies and D. J. Williams officiated in the house and the Revs. J. G. Davies and M. Watkins at the graveside, the Rev. A. M. Bell being also present.

Reports.

All Souls' Church.—The Ordination of the Rev. Sydney P. Whitehouse, of Leicester and Manchester College, Oxford, as Minister of the Congregation, will take place on Friday, 3rd September, at half past two o'clock. Afterwards a Reception will be held in Rosemary Hall, Elmwood Avenue, and it is hoped there will be a good attendance at both functions.

* *

Ballycarry.—The Annual Choir Excursion in connection with Ballycarry, took place on Wednesday, 23rd June. Leaving Ballycarry at 9 a.m.,

the Choir and friends numbering 26, journeyed by motor-bus to Cushendall, where after an enjoyable interlude on the shore, a very satisfactory lunch was enjoyed at the Glens of Antrim Hotel. After lunch the party proceeded to Cushendun, then back to the lower end of the Glen. The walk up the Glen was delightful and enjoyed by all. At the head of the Glen, the party re-joined the motor and proceeded to Ballymena, where tea was taken. After a walk round Ballymena, a move was made for Antrim, and Lough Neagh visited. Finally Ballycarry was reached at 8-30 p.m. after a most enjoyable day. The arrangements of the trip and also the Winter Social Evenings, were in the capable hands of the Misses Hamilton. From the proceeds of a Concert arranged by young members of the Church, the Manse is being painted and repairs done to fabric. For this good work, amongst others, thanks are due to the Misses Campbell and M'Kee; Messrs. M'Master, M'Kee, Robinson and Millar, who are personally giving their time and labour.

Ballyclare.—The Annual Sunday School outing took place to Portrush, on Wednesday, 23rd June. The journey was made by road via Ballymena and Ballymoney and the day being fine was greatly enjoyed. After lunch which was partaken of at the Central Café, Portrush, members of the party went their several ways determined to make the most of the time at their disposal re-assembling again at 4-30 for tea. As it was decided to return by way of the coast which is considerably longer, an early start had to be made in consequence. The cooling breeze all the way was much appreciated and proved a welcome relief to many of the party after the heat of the day. Home was reached shortly after 10-30 p.m. The outing was a very happy one.

Bangor.—Members of Bangor Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Congregation (Unitarian), wish through the medium of THE NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIAN, to thank the "Kind Friend" who organised a Jumble Sale in connection with the above and has forwarded the sum of £4. The Committee feel very grateful, and it gives them great encouragement to persevere in their difficult task of carrying on this new Branch in Bangor, when they feel that a "Kind Friend" sympathises and has done something substantial, and also interested in our movements. Also our thanks to the ladies of the congregation for their kind help in the above.

Cairncastle.—On Tuesday, 29th June, a party of fifty-four, most of them connected with the Old Meeting House, the rest members of the Larne Congregation of the same communion, with a few other, set out from Ballygally Bay in two char-a-bancs and a motor cycle combination. Starting at 9-30 a.m., they made their way via Cushendall to Ballycastle and thence to Ballintoy, where they picnicked near a very pleasant hill. The two stewards, Messrs. Willie Maxwell and Alfred M'Clelland, seemed to serve out similar rations to all members of the party, save that a score of them were distinguished by a blue cross, which was understood by some people to be a mark of measure, but not of quality. There had also been light refreshment in the cars. A copious supply of toffee, the gift of Mrs. Axon, and a Paris bun for every one, provided by another lady as a supplement to a presumably hasty and insufficient breakfast at home. After about an hour at "Picnic Hill," the cars proceeded to the Causeway. Thirty-six of the excursionists passed through the barrier, some to find comfortable seats on the polygons of the Giant, but a fair proportion to visit his organ. These more energetic persons would fain have gone as far as the Giant's chimneys, but refrained from doing so out of consideration for the remainder of the party, who, being less active than the thirty-six, had been left to creep to the top of the cliff overlooking the Causeway and its wings. The terminus of the excursion was Portrush, where there was not time to make as long a pause as most of the party would have desired. They proceeded via Coleraine and Ballymoney to Ballymena where excellent tea was served to them at the Clarence Hotel, from whence after a dispersal through the town and a gathering for dance and fun, the cars started homewards at a quarter to ten o'clock. By the aid of the motor-cycle sundry sights were brought nearer to some eyes than the rest, such as the castles of Red Bay, Dunseverick and Dunluce,

the swinging bridge at Carrick-a-rede and another at Ballymoney. The School Fête was held on Tuesday, the 6th July. It was a rainy day, but a small party of children spent a happy time in the school-room, and a larger party of larger people had a happy time afterwards in a neighbouring field and adjourned to the school-room for a dance when daylight and the children had departed.

Clough.—The Annual Sunday School excursion took place on Thursday, 1st July. There was a good muster of children and adults, who left Clough at 10 a.m. in chars-a-banc en route for Newtownards where a light lunch was partaken. After which they proceeded to Greyabbey where they paid the famous old Abbey a visit and from thence continued their journey round the Ards Peninsula, arriving in Bangor at 4 p.m. in time for tea which was very much needed and enjoyed after the long but delightful ride. Most of the party availed themselves of the rare opportunity of visiting the warships in the Bay, which was most interesting and enjoyable, though some substantial members had their trials when following guides up and down ladders and round turrets. At 8 p.m. all were gathered in and a start was made for home, the chars-a-banc reaching Clough at 10-30 p.m. All had a great and memorable day. Everything was perfect, weather and arrangements, and warm thanks are due to Messrs. Hugh Shaw, Samuel Robinson and the Minister who were in charge of the arrangements.

Comber.—Successful Floral Services were held on Sunday, 27th June. The Church was tastefully decorated by the teachers and helpers. The Rev. E. Lockett, was the preacher, and his addresses were thoroughly appreciated by the children and the adults alike. The scholars sang several hymns and also contributed an anthem. As in former years each scholar brought a bunch of beautiful flowers. These were sent to the Queen Street Hospital, Belfast, on the following day. The collections were in aid of the Sunday School Fund. Some of the senior scholars acted as collectors. A warm tribute of thanks is due to Miss Eva Andrews and Mr. W. Munn for their efficient training of the Children's Choir.

Downpatrick.—The Annual Flower Service at the First Presbyterian Church was held on Sunday afternoon, The children marched from Sunday School to the church bearing their floral tributes, which were received and laid upon a raised stand. The local company of the Boys' Brigade was present in excellent form and numbers. The singing was rendered in good heart the children giving as an anthem a hymn from "Hymns and Choral Songs." At the close of the service the gifts of flowers and eggs were taken by the scholars up to the Infirmary. Prefacing his address with a word of welcome to the officers and boys of the Brigade, the minister, Rev. J. Begg, emphasised his belief that religion is not opposed to the real joy of life; that young and old must find something big enough and fine enough to claim the energy of mind and soul. We live in a world full of wonder, and there is no excuse at all for the careless or indifferent person. God gave us flowers and stars, the ocean's rhythm, books, and music, and thought itself in order that we might find a way to higher life and heaven above. The person who has a real interest is usually also the person who has a fine ideal of life and his fellow-beings, and it is in fostering and strengthening this spirit that there lies the everyday work of religion. The Sunday School and congregational excursion took place on Thursday, th June, to Newcastle. Assembling at the fine old church, and headed by the Hollymount Pipe Band, all marched to the station with flags flying in old-time style. At Newcastle lunch was taken in the Presbyterian Hall. Then came recreation on the sand-banks. At 4-30 a return was made to the hall, where over 70 scholars and 200 adults sat down at tea, the catering being carried out by Mr. George Stewart, of the Royal Bakery, Belfast, in excellent fashion. Later, on the sandhills beside the golf course, young and old revelled in the blazing sunshine of a glorious July day. Everyone voted it "topping." The home journey was without incident. At the church Rev. J. Begg gave well-merited thanks to the Band for their services, and on his initiative cheers were accorded the pipers. Cheers were also given for "his Reverence." Praise

too is due to Mr. Hugh Dickson for his organising abilities. The singing of the National Anthem was a fitting close to a perfect day.

Killinchy.—The Sunday School Anniversary Services were held on Sunday, 20th June. The Rev. D. J. Williams, preached in the morning with special reference to the work of the Sunday School and its significance to the Church. In the evening we were favoured by a visit from the Rev. J. G. Davies, of Comber, who delivered an able sermon on the Christian vocation. Collections were made at both services which amounted to a satisfactory figure. Special hymns, appropriate to the School Anniversary, were sung, and the Choir gave an anthem at each service. The School Excursion took place on Saturday, 26th June, in glorious weather. Teachers, Scholars and members of the congregation were conveyed to Newcastle in motor buses. A very enjoyable afternoon was spent in that popular seaside resort. At 5 p.m. we all sat down together to a substantial tea and at 8 p.m. we all started for home, arriving at 9 o'clock, having thoroughly experienced a good time.

Mountpottinger.—The Sunday School Excursion took place on Saturday, 26th June, when Groomsport was revisited after an interval of some years. The popularity of the venue was evidenced by the numbers making the journey which were greatly in excess of recent gatherings of a like character. Two of the magnificent "Bangor Queen" motor buses were chartered for the run and these were very well filled. Following a pleasant if somewhat dull morning the afternoon was gloriously fine and this natural addedly to the enjoyment. Under the direction of Mr. T. Patton the boys indulged in cricket on the sands and other games were played by those who did not participate in this pastime. Much interest was taken in the Sports promoted by Messrs. H. Beattie and L. Watters, there being keen competition for the prizes which had been provided by the generosity of members of the congregation. It was a tired but happy party that left Groomsport about 8-15 p.m. after what was conceded to be the best excursion held for a number of years.

Newry. — The Sunday School Anniversary and Floral Services were held on Sunday, 4th July. The preacher being the Rev. G. J. Slipper, whose addresses were appropriate to the occasion. Special hymns were sung by the Scholars under the direction of Mrs. Slipper, and the Church was prettily decorated. The collections were on behalf of the Sunday School Funds. The flowers were sent to the local hospital.

York Street.—During the past two months there have only been a few items of interest to report. The Church Guild which had met with great regularity throughout the Winter brought its session to an end with a Social, which was one of the best attended of the season. The Guild has added a considerable sum to Church Funds and succeeded in its principal work of bringing our members together in a way which ordinary services could not do. The experiences of the past winter have led to the determination to extend the work of the Guild and several distinguished lecturers have already promised to give their services, while the Hall is being renovated during the summer months by the members. Miss Lily Daniel one of our most faithful young workers was made the recipient of a presentation at a party held on the eve of her departure for Canada. Our Summer Programme began with a visit to Moneyrea. In spite of pouring rain about 160 members made the journey. Rev. A. Whitford preached an appropriate sermon and we were afterwards entertained by the members of Moneyrea in the schoolroom. The good fellowship and enthusiasm of both congregations made the United Service a success in spite of the weather. We were better favoured on our recent visit to Ballycarry. This was also the second visit to that Congregation and we feel that the two Congregations are getting to know one another. Rev. W. G. Mardsen preached and interested our members with some history of the Old Meeting House. A very substantial lunch was provided in the Schoolhouse and our members were afterwards shown over the historic graveyard. Having postponed our departure to the latest moment we arrived in the city at 5-30 and it speaks well for the loyalty of our

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people that almost every one who had made the journey in the morning turned out for Evening Service, the Church being full though so many of our people are at present in the country. We have to congratulate Mr. H. G. Calwell, B.A., Mr. J. D. Boyd, Dr. W. A. Scott, and our Minister in their successes in the Medical Examinations at Queen's University. Dr. F. Hill will carry our good wishes on his departure to Africa. The Sunday School has closed for the Summer, but Children's Churches will be held in the mornings. Our members are actively working for the success of our great venture to fill the Ulster Hall for the Minister's third anniversary on the Second Sunday in September. We feel it will be a fitting climax to three years of ceaseless activity and labour on the part of almost all our members and the commencement of a winter of even greater progress than we have seen before.

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